al loans upto Rs. 10,000 for both short-term, medium/long term loans.

8. Banks have been advised that for both short term and term loans, the repayment schedule should coincide with the time when the cultivator has sold his produce and is in funds.

9. Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

The overall position with regard to performance of Public Sector Banks in the matter of lending to Priority Sector, including agriculture is also reviewed periodically. Whenever any deficiencies are noticed during reviews the same are looked into for necessary remedial action. The performance is also reviewed periodically at State Level Bankers' Committee meetings.

Changes in Financing Policy

2659. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about changes in the country's finance policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said changes will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The financing policy is reviewed from time to time in the light of resources position and socio-economic priorities of the country. Further policy changes are expected to be taken as and when demanded by emerging economic trends.

2660. *[Transferred to the 20th December, 1991]*

Payment of arrears to Regional Rural Bank Staff

2661. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to pay the arrears to Regional Rural Bank Staff as per Tribunal Award of 30th April, 1990;

(b) whether Government are having any proposal to restructure the Regional Rural Banks; and

(c) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government's orders allowing sponsor bank pay scales to the employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been issued on 22nd February, 1991. The Regional Rural Banks have been advised to pay arrears of pay and allowances consequent to the refixation of pay in the new pay scales *w.e.f.* 1.1.91. The total financial implications of payment of arrears for the period prior to 1.1.1991 has been estimated at about Rs. 200 crores. Since Regional Rural Banks do not have funds of this order to make the payments, the mechanism for the payment of arrears is being worked out by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development, Reserve Bank of India and Govt.

(b) and (c) A High Level Committee set up by the Government was asked to examine all aspects relating to the structure, organisation, functions and procedure of the financial system. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 20.11.91. No decision has been taken on the Committees recommendations.